New Bedford October 27th 1841.

The Vestry of the Methodist Church
4th Street —

My dear Lucia & Emma.

I address you collectively, for I suppose you will be together at the Southwicks. I suppose too before you receive this you will have seen my letter to Caroline, announcing the failure of this my beloved plan of a school of my own here. I ought not to feel bad about it; for I had the best of motives, I acted from the highest sense of duty. 15 County St

Mrs Howlands.

I came here last night and having a little time this morning I will write — I do not exactly know what I had better do. After thinking all night, my present idea is this. Mrs Ben Congdon I understand wanted to have my schoolroom for her daughter, who has a school now in W. Rotches little schoolroom on County St, but that is a very inconvenient distance so I hope she still wants mine & hope. I dont know as it is worth while to ask any advice, for as I run myself right into this difficulty, why I must get myself out as I best can. Vestry again. I will get this letter off by noon if I can, so you will receive it Saturday morning or noon. You will have an opportunity of

consulting Caroline Saturday, as to what she thinks. Will you write then, & put the letter into the mail before 3 o'clock sunday afternoon & I shall get it monday at 12 o'clock. What encourages me to give up now is that if I do, I hope to be out of pocket only $5.00 whereas if I stay on, I fear it will be much more: If I can arrange well, it will not be $5. and ~~as~~ I am one of those who will probably have nothing, because I will venture nothing — I have been remarkably well since I have been here, I mean the last week, have felt strong as a lion, & could have taken care of a school of 40, if I had them — I dont know whether to attribute this to taking long walks in the air, or to my homeopathy. Upon the whole I dont know but it was as well that I tried this school as not, for I think I always should have reproached myself with not being willing to do my part towards the general good. Even if my school supports itself, I mean pays all expenses, during the winter I cannot bear to be labouring for nothing as it were — money to spend is what I want, — I shall be able to pay Dr Ofield, after the fair with my $100. & also refund to Caroline what she has advanced for me. I am afraid she must suffer for money, ~~with what [illegible] advanced for me~~. I hope you will be able to make this letter out, but I have written it at intervals, setting things down as fast as they came into my head —

My new gown at Miss Watsons was to be done on Monday. Will you call and get it & ask her for the bill. Edmund Babcock is coming to town & I will write by him, perhaps if you make the gown up in a small bundle he can take it; I will write by him so that you will know. If he is not able to bring it I will ascertain, & in that case you must send it by Hatch. Take it to the Railway and give it to the Conductor of the N. B. Cars. If I give up the school I think I shall stay a week or two & visit — Be sure now and write for I want all the consolation I can have. The Emerson's & Doubledays are in the greatest trouble — It is distressing to see poor Elizabeth. I suppose you saw by the papers that they had lost their mother. That is trouble — As I wish to get this letter off in the afternoon mail I can write no more, but believe me

ever yours D. C. —

Put into my bundle when you send it my pen-knife which I left at Chamcook in Maria's possession — I wish I were at Weymouth —

Miss Lucia Weston.
Care of Joseph Southwick Esq
Boston
Mass.

MS A 9.3.15.84